

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan Heavener on 3/15/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 4, 5, 6 and 20 have been cancelled.

In claim 1, line 13, "and a plunger tube (18)," has been deleted and --and a plunger tube (18), wherein each of the four parts is a one-piece integral construction,-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 15, "also forms a seat" has been deleted and --also forming a seat-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 15, "interacting" has been deleted and --which interacts-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 17, "the valve element" has been deleted and --wherein the valve element-- has been inserted.

In claim 3, lines 1-2, "the pump comprises a retaining ring (15)" has been deleted and --the retaining ring (15) is-- has been inserted.

In claim 7, lines 1-2, "where the pump comprises a dispensing head (40) including" has been deleted and --wherein the dispensing head (40) includes-- has been inserted.

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In claim 9, line 1, "wherein a dispensing" has been deleted and --wherein said dispensing-- has been inserted.

In claim 18, line 1, "spring" has been deleted and --spring.-- has been inserted.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the primary reason for allowance of claim 1 is the inclusion of the limitation "wherein each of the four parts is a one-piece integral construction" in combination with the other claim limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No. 5,692,649 to *Schwab* and US Patent No. 6,053,368 to *Gelmer* disclose pumps with similar overall structure to applicant's pump which were known in the art at the time of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JONATHAN WOOD whose telephone number is (571)270-7422. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571)272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JKW/
Examiner, Art Unit 3754

/Kevin P. Shaver/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3754